

**NOTE.** The Editor reserves the right to edit and reject letters. Pseudonyms may be used but must be clearly marked as such. All correspondence, including e-mails and SMSs, must include your name, address and a daytime telephone number. Preference will be given to shorter letters on topical issues.

Write to: PO Box 12141 Kampala Email: [letters@ug.nationmedia.com](mailto:letters@ug.nationmedia.com)

# Letters

## KCCA had cordial talk with Cosase

We, Kampala Capital City Authorities (KCCA) officials appeared before Parliament's Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (Cosase) on July 30, 2019 to respond to queries raised by the Auditor General.

We made the submissions led by the acting executive director and the entire technical team. All matters were concluded and for those where the Committee asked for more information, we agreed to submit it in two weeks. The Committee chairperson shared that he would discuss with his team if he deems it fit to invite other witnesses, including the Lord Mayor, former executive director and others.

It is not that the team failed to respond to the issues as stated in the story, 'MPs summon Musisi over Shs19b (see *Daily Monitor* of July 31). We had cordial discussions, questions and answers provided. We find that particular statement false with a lot of insinuations.

**Peter Kauju,**  
KCCA spokesperson,

## Racist remarks on Blacks absurd

"Those monkeys from African countries are still uncomfortable wearing shoes!" - former US President Ronald Reagan is quoted by BBC to have said at a UN General Assembly in 1971.

Isn't this how racist (both men and women) talk among themselves about Black people? Isn't this what they secretly tell their children about us everyday?

Isn't it this very mentality that brought about colonialism, expansionism, imperialism, economic exploitation, plunder, slavery, torture, genocide, ethnic cleansing, mass murder of entire indigenous populations, detention camps, cultural eradication, the holocaust, human zoos and the resulting covert mass bigotry against Africans and other indigenous peoples of colour?

**Hussein Lumumba Amin,**  
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### LETTER OF THE DAY

## We must conserve our wetlands

As Uganda moves towards the oil production phase, the East African Crude Oil pipeline (EACOP), is one of the key components that will transport crude oil to Tanga port in Tanzania for exportation. However, this pipeline comes at a time when the entire world is talking about sustainable development and climate change, which is related to the way we use our natural resources for development.

This pipeline in Uganda was designed to pass through more than 200 wetlands, which does not augur well for Ugandans who rely on wetlands for water supply for human consumption and they provide cattle grazing ground. Many of the pipeline affected districts are located in the cattle corridor, which is water-stressed.

The proposed technique for water and wetland crossings (open trench) has the potential for causing negative impacts, particularly in wetlands yet this seems to be ignored. Even the EACOP Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report does not state clear why the proposed technology is acceptable. This way of digging nearly between two and three metres in the wetlands with a right of way of nearly 30 metres, means some wetlands will



be destroyed.

Inevitably, flora and fauna will be destroyed. And in case of any spillage, the effects will be severe since wetlands constitute systems that end up in open water bodies, many of which are transboundary. Therefore, the developer needs to explain in detail the way in which the crossings of the major rivers and associated wetlands will be done.

A particular element for attention is how trenches having a water depth of two to three metres will be crossed

Consider alternatives, including the different construction techniques such as open-trench/auger drilling/digging/ drilling a tunnel. And if open trenches remain the preferred

option, they should consider filling of the trenches instead of the proposed natural filling of the trenches in turbid streams as the material may easily erode.

The developer should also specify where and when potential interference between the water supply for the project and that for the local communities could take place, including its duration and who will be affected.

The mitigation and compensation measures for disturbing watering points for animals during construction are also not sufficient. Impacts could be important for individual farmers. The same holds for loss of natural resources.

They should also tell what provisions have been put in place to cater for activities directly linked to some of these water sources, like brick-making, sand mining, vegetable-growing and communal resources, including grazing.

The President has on many occasions spoken of the need to conserve wetlands amid increased pressure, especially from investors. Therefore, the EACOP project should desist from engaging in acts that destroy nature, including wetlands.

**Asadhu Ssebyoto,**  
[ssebyoto@gmail.com](mailto:ssebyoto@gmail.com)

## War in S. Sudan has diminished people's resilience

The refugee story is still here with us. We are here in a very large refugee village, the Bidbidi Refugee Camp with a population of about 227,600 people. This is a result of conflict mainly across our northern border, where our brothers are clashing.

The war in South Sudan has diminished the population's resilience, making their living conditions to deteriorate day-by-day. That is why new refugees arrive at our hospitable place in big numbers.

Deprived of basic needs in their mother land, they come to find basic needs in their new homes - displacement camps. Shelter is being set up. Food rations are being distributed. And medical services being offered to delivering women and cure other vulnerable people. Even education is waiting, where the kids get enrolled in the local schools. However, water and sanitation services are not yet available to take care of the huge numbers. So the concept of water trucking is

mulled and implemented as an interim measure. And camp residents can now get some water. The wells and springs being provided by the nearby village dry up sometimes. They do not meet demand and are not always safe for human consumption. But also, the women and children, who are the most vulnerable, get exposed to many risks when they go to collect water from afar.

**Simon J. Mone,**  
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### ALARM BELLS

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### END CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Delvin Segz says: "Corporal punishment is one of the factors that lead to the increment in number of street children. I have been moving on Kampala streets and realised that what the State minister for Youth and Children Affairs, Ms Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi, has done or is doing together with KCCA is really yielding results given that there are now a few cases of street children on the streets of Kampala. In fact, many of these children have been handled and some of them have got a chance of reuniting with their families and others have been taken to special homes where they can be taken care of. However, the tricky part is, what will happen if more children join the streets?"



### UGANDANS KILLED IN S. SUDAN

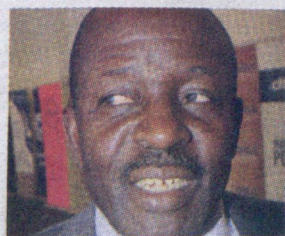
Godwin Matendo says: "The story that two Ugandans have been killed in an attack at the weekend by suspected rebels of National Salvation Front (NASF) of Lt Gen Thomas Cirilo is quite absurd. To my dismay, this is not the first time Ugandans are killed in that country in spite of the fact that they take food and other items to sell in that country. For how long will Ugandans continue to be killed in South Sudan? Besides, Uganda plays host to many South Sudanese."

### I CHANGED MY SON'S SCHOOL

Giregon Olupot says: "The reason I transferred my son from his former school is that for the entire one year that my son was at the school, there was no single meeting held. When I made inquiries in the course of the year, I was advised to see the school authorities in case I have any particular issues. My own experience shows me that the regularity of such meetings is an indicator of schools that are making academic and moral progress. Schools that are struggling or have a lot of dark issues are not comfortable holding regular school-parents meetings. Even when they do, parents are not given opportunity to give school authorities feedback."

### COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS > WITH STEPHEN OTAGE

## What do you want to see in the National Development Plan III?



"The size of Parliament should be reduced so that we have one Woman and one male MP per district. The size of Cabinet should also be reduced and state ministers made directors."

**Dr Simba Ssali Kayunga**  
Lecturer, Makerere University



"It should explain issues concerning Ugandan citizens at grassroots level. This is the human rights based approach to planning that relates to the needs of the community."

**Patrick Tumwine,**  
Human Rights defender



"It should show commitment to ask Finance ministry critical questions, which align institutions such as the Judiciary to the national development plan."

**Norah Matovu Winyi,**  
Lawyer



"We need to invest in decentralisation. When we designed this policy, it received a lot of support, but it was not given the resources which we want to see in NDP III."

**Ben Kumumanya PS,**  
Local govt ministry

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